



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

September 2004

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES DOWN SHARPLY IN AUGUST IN THE SOUTHEAST

The not seasonally adjusted **Racine MSA** unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in August, down sharply compared to July, (-0.6 percentage point) and down even more considerably compared to last August (-1.6 percentage point). The county shows 1,700 fewer unemployed residents and 300 fewer employed compared to last August.

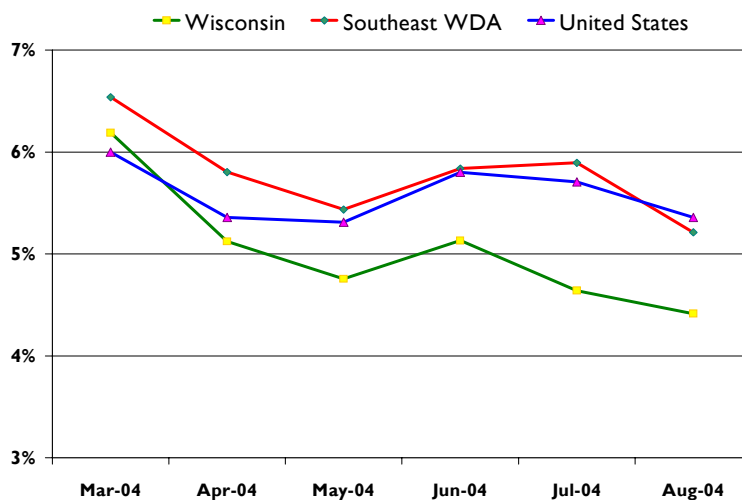
The industry employment tally from the nonfarm wage and salary estimates shows the county had 79,500 total jobs in August. This represented a monthly, net increase of 100 jobs. Most of the industry sectors were unchanged over the month neither losing nor adding workers. The largest industry sector employment increase was in manufacturing employment, which gained 200 more

jobs. Leisure and hospitality employment was the only other sector to show an employment increase adding 100 more jobs. Monthly decreases in employment were measured in government employment (-200 jobs) and health care and social assistance (-100 jobs).

Annual industry employment totals show a net loss of 900 jobs. For a number of months in Racine County, the overall job loss has been centered in manufacturing employment, though it has been slightly offset by the maintenance and/or growth of employment in other industry sectors. Manufacturing shows a loss of 600 jobs. Retail trade shows a loss of 500 jobs. Employment growth was seen in educational and health services and professional and business services, each gaining 200 jobs. Financial activities gained 100 jobs compared to August 2003.

Walworth County's unemployment rate in August was 3.3 percent. This is lower than July's fig-

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin Counties: August 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County		
	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03
Labor force	3,143,789	3,175,939	3,122,612	86,461	86,489	87,199	95,307	96,412	97,279
Employed	3,004,983	3,028,540	2,957,928	82,208	81,260	82,246	88,977	89,466	89,313
Unemployed	138,806	147,399	164,684	4,253	5,229	4,953	6,330	6,946	7,966
% Unemployed	4.4%	4.6%	5.3%	4.9%	6.0%	5.7%	6.6%	7.2%	8.2%
	Walworth County			Southeast WDA			United States		
	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03
Labor force	58,008	58,822	57,916	239,776	241,723	242,394	148,166,000	149,217,000	147,822,000
Employed	56,095	56,747	55,751	227,280	227,473	227,310	140,226,000	140,700,000	138,503,000
Unemployed	1,913	2,075	2,165	12,496	14,250	15,084	7,940,000	8,518,000	9,319,000
% Unemployed	3.3%	3.5%	3.7%	5.2%	5.9%	6.2%	5.4%	5.7%	6.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - August 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County			Walworth County			Southeast WDA		
<u>Employment in 1,000's</u>	Change since August 2004			Change since August 2004			Change since August 2004			Change since August 2004			Change since August 2004		
	August 2004	July 2004	August 2003	August 2004	July 2004	August 2003	August 2004	July 2004	August 2003	August 2004	July 2004	August 2003	August 2004	July 2004	August 2003
All Industries	2851.3	4.7	46.5	54.9	0.9	-0.4	79.5	0.1	-0.9	43.1	-0.2	-0.1	177.5	0.8	-1.4
Construction/Natural Resources	142.1	-0.8	2.2	2.5	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	8.7	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	524.5	2.5	10.8	9.7	0.9	-0.8	19.1	0.2	-0.6	9.0	0.0	0.0	37.8	1.1	-1.4
Total Trade	445.7	0.8	6.7	8.9	-0.1	-0.1	12.3	0.0	-0.6	5.9	0.0	0.1	27.1	-0.1	-0.6
Retail Trade	327.9	1.6	3.3	6.9	0.0	0.0	9.3	0.0	-0.5	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Wholesale Trade	117.8	-0.8	3.4	2.0	-0.1	-0.1	3.0	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	106.4	0.8	0.2	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	-0.1	1.1	0.0	-0.1	4.5	0.0	-0.2
Financial Activities	161.9	-0.3	2.9	1.8	0.0	0.1	2.9	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.2
Education and Health Services	376.1	0.2	10.9	8.1	-0.1	0.0	10.5	0.0	0.2	3.9	0.0	0.1	22.5	-0.1	0.3
Leisure and Hospitality	274.0	1.7	4.8	6.7	0.1	0.1	7.1	0.1	0.0	8.5	-0.1	-0.1	22.3	0.1	0.0
Info./Prof./Bus. and Other Services	448.0	5.4	14.1	6.7	0.1	0.2	11.7	0.0	0.1	5.2	0.0	-0.1	23.6	0.1	0.2
Information	48.5	0.3	-1.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Professional and Business Services	270.8	5.3	17.8	3.5	0.1	0.2	6.4	0.0	0.2	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Other Services	128.7	-0.2	-2.7	2.7	0.0	-0.1	4.7	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Fed/State/Local Government	372.6	-5.6	-6.1	9.0	0.0	0.1	10.0	-0.2	0.0	6.0	-0.2	0.0	25.0	-0.4	0.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

ure by two-tenths of a percentage point. And like most of Wisconsin's counties, its unemployment rate is lower than that in August 2003. Walworth's rate is four-tenths of a percentage point lower than it was in August 2003 with 340 more employed and 250 fewer unemployed residents. This is the lowest unemployment rate for the month of August that Walworth has had since August 2001.

Walworth's tally of industry employment shows 43,100 total jobs. This is an overall, monthly decrease of 200 jobs. The net loss was mainly found in total government employment (-200 jobs) and leisure and hospitality employment (-100 jobs). The remaining sectors were unchanged or showed so little gain or loss in employment that they did not register as changed in these rounded estimates in the above table.

The annual industry perspective shows a net loss of 100 jobs in Walworth County. Employment gains of 100 jobs each were seen in education and health services employment and in total trade employment. Losses of 100 jobs each were seen in leisure and hospitality employment; transpor-

tation, warehousing and utilities; and information, professional, business and other services.

The not seasonally adjusted **Kenosha MSA** unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in August. The current rate is lower than July's, which was 6.0 percent. It is considerably lower than last August's rate of 5.7 percent. Annually, the number of employed in the county was unchanged though the number of unemployed decreased by 700.

Kenosha's industry employment tally shows a total of 54,900 jobs. This is 900 more jobs than July's total. The majority of industry sectors showed very little change in employment with gains or losses of 100 jobs or no change at all. One exception to this was the manufacturing sector, which gained 900 jobs over the month. This is the largest monthly increase in manufacturing employment this year. The sizable increase is typical for August as it represents the employment rebound after the July shutdown of many manufacturing facilities.

Kenosha's annual change in industry em-

ployment shows an overall loss of 400 jobs compared to August 2003. The majority of industry sectors show employment gains, but they could not offset the 800-job loss in manufacturing employment. Total trade and other services were the only other industry sectors to show an annual employment decrease at -100 jobs, each. Industry sectors showing employment gains were health care and social assistance (+500 jobs), professional and business services (+200 jobs). Information, financial activities and government employment each gained 100 jobs over the last year. Construction employment has remained unchanged over the year, though its employment level remains at a record high level of 2,500 employed.

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